NEWSBRIEFS

Lord's guidance concerning moving to a village outside Accra and setting up a rural clinic there. Her letter tells the story: *"God bless you all . . . I have moved from Sunyani to the Accra region. Where I am residing is called Teshie/Nungua Estate. This is a new township situated between Accra and Tema the new port. We live very near to the seashore. I really miss my Sunyani group. Prior to my departure we met frequently and the Lord guided me to lay my hands on each and every one. The group also prayed for my family and I before we started off with mixed feelings. Some of them said they could not bear to witness our lorry moving away from Sunyani. The nurses were also sad, so was I!"*

Grace goes on to write of her hopes of starting a "Foundation Faith of God Rural Clinic." She asks for our prayers and for any information on organizations in the United States that might donate medical items for her clinic, provide initial funding etc. We urgently request our readers who know of such organizations to contact us in Las Vegas, meanwhile we are researching this question ourselves. Grace closes by saying that she has started gathering people for a new prayer group, and promises more news in the very near future. God bless you, Grace. You are very much in our prayers. To contact Grace, please write

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1987

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LETTERS

Revs. Raphael de Peyer and Grace Michaels recently received these generous letters from U.S. Senator Chic Hecht and Mayor Ron Lurie for their work at University Medical Center.

In honor of "National Volunteer Week," please let me add my personal congratulations to you for your dedicated efforts at the University Medical Center. Through the unselfish giving of your time, you spread joy and comfort to the lives of many.

On behalf of our entire community, thank you for a job well done!

Sincerely,

Ron Lurie
Mayor

I have recently been informed of the volunteer work that you have performed with the University Medical Center. I would like to extend my congratulations to you for your worthy efforts.

Too often today, we hear complaints that the spirit of giving and volunteerism has died in America. However, your work on behalf of University Medical Center has proven that this spirit is far from dead.

Again, my congratulations to you for taking the time to participate in this assignment. You are a fine example of the American spirit in action.

With warm regards,

Chic Hecht
United States Senate

NEWSBRIEFS

LOCAL

Lilac (Rev. Grace Michaels) as the Easter Bunny with a resident at Henderson Convalescent's Easter Party.

CLOWN MINISTRY: A couple of typical recent stories from the hospitals serve as an excellent illustration of the clowns' work with the kids.

Angelica, an 11 year old, was comatose in Intensive Care as a result of a car accident when we first visited her, and it was not known if she would regain consciousness. Even though she was unconscious we felt that she could perhaps hear the songs we sang for her (often hearing is the first faculty to return without other signs of consciousness being present). This seemed to be borne out with small movements she made in response to the music, and her response increased over the weeks until it was clear she had regained consciousness and was following us with her eyes. She is now in a nursing home receiving rehabilitative therapy.

Alain, a little baby, was a very different case. Born with birth defects including closed ear canals, which precluded hearing, there was, however, nothing wrong with his eyesight. For him, therefore, a visual approach was necessary. We found he had a good response to a magic trick which involves a red and blue scarf turning into a yellow and green one! Alain is now out of Intensive Care and prayerfully surgery will be able to correct his hearing when he is older.

Photo: Hester Katzman

Lilac went back to school to talk to many Las Vegas schoolchildren about the work of the Clown Ministry. Here she is shown illustrating the musical side of clowning!

A special welcome to new volunteers, Anne Benoit (Sunshine), Nancy McConlogue (Beebles) and Morris Saunders. Anne has been participating in visits to Child Haven, the Salvation Army Daycare Center and Desert Developmental Center, Nancy to Child Haven, University Medical Center (UMC) Pediatric and Burn Units, and Morris to the Nevada Association for the Handicapped. Charles Nebeker (Chuckles T. Kloun), an old hand as a volunteer, did a fine job leading a group to the Child Haven toddlers. The visit lasted far beyond the planned time, and all the volunteers fell in love with the youngsters, and prayed for them to find the Lord's peace and love. Special thanks also to Isidro Gonzales (Chief) and Jean Klein, Paul Tarr, and indeed to all our wonderful volunteers. God bless you all for your love and caring for these special children.

At Easter, Lilac and Sunshine visited Henderson Convalescent Hospital as the Easter Bunny and a hatching chick respectively. They were the hit of the party, getting written up in the local paper. They presented prizes to the contestants in the Easter Parade Hat Contest, handed out Easter baskets and talked with all the residents. Lilac also visited UMC as the Easter Bunny handing out Easter Baskets in the pediatric ward and to two little boys in the Burn Unit. Even though the boys were in pain, the Easter candy and the silly Easter Bunny antics brought big smiles to their faces.

In May Lilac and Sunshine also visited the Salvation Army Daycare Center doing a sing-along and giving out prayer bookmarks, both of which were very much appreciated.

At Temporary Assistance for Domestic Crisis, in honor of Mother's Day we handed out wrapped baskets containing lots of goodies, including a generous donation of shampoo and styling gel donated for the occasion by Stardust Beauty Supply. We let the children present the baskets to their mothers, and although several little ones dug into the candy before the baskets reached mom, the ladies were delighted with the gifts and the sense of family it helped to evoke.

And lastly, at the invitation of UMC, Lilac and Paul Tarr took part in "Child Fair" a health and education oriented fair, where they painted the faces for the many young visitors.

PET THERAPY: Yang the young pekingese, continues to be a big hit with the seniors. An R.N. told us of Yang visiting her grandmother not long before she died, and what a wonderful effect it had created on the old lady, who had her picture taken with Yang. One of the nursing homes now actually sends its schedule and newsletter to Yang personally!! At Beverly Manor, Teddy and Pippin, with Rev. Abigail Johns in tow, started a party in the room of one of the residents, with many of the other residents coming to her room and reminiscing about their dogs. The new administrator was much struck by the effect created and hopes to have a resident dog at the home.

ANIMAL ACTION: We have continued to pursue a vigorous adoption program in Las Vegas for the animals that come into our sanctuary, Best Friends. Our special thanks to the many Las Vegans that have provided wonderful homes. If you would like to help by giving a dog or cat a loving home, please call us at 367-6808. One young lady brought her two children along when she adopted a puppy, and immediately recognized Rev. Maria Perchuk (Coconut) as the clown who had visited her daughter in Sunrise Hospital.

An ugly piece of news concerns the renewal of the baby seal hunt in Canada, in which it is planned to slaughter 57,000 of the helpless little creatures. We urge anyone with a feeling for these innocents to write a strong protest to : The Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, Office of the Prime Minister, Langevin Block, Parliament Bldgs., Ottawa, Ontario K1A OA2, Canada.

Courtesy: IFAW

A baby harp seal, the slaughter of which has been condoned by the Canadian government.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Margery Kellar (right) talking with delegates at the Southeast Environmentalist Reception in Atlanta.

ATLANTA: Bob and Margery Kellar have been very active on behalf of the animals with recent protests organized outside Yerkes and a store in the Buckhead area. Margery, who is Atlanta Co-ordinator for Georgia Earth Alliance, also attended the Southeast Environmentalist Reception.

Jennifer Maxfield (Fluffy) and Pat Gallagher (Flash) continue to visit with youngsters in area hospitals.

CHICAGO: Rev. Raphael de Peyer will, as usual, be visiting in Chicago for a week towards the end of September (exact dates to be announced), where he will conduct a workshop, a prayer group, as well as being available for individual counseling.

GHANA: The big news out of Ghana concerns the re-location and plans of the head of the ministry there, Sister Grace F. Asare-Djan. Until recently Grace worked for the Ministry of Health as a nurse in a hospital in Sunyani, and held regular meetings of our Circle of Power prayer group there. Several months ago Grace sought the

over